

REMARKS

Pursuant to the present amendment, claims 1, 9 and 16 have been amended to correct a typographical error in the claims. Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application.

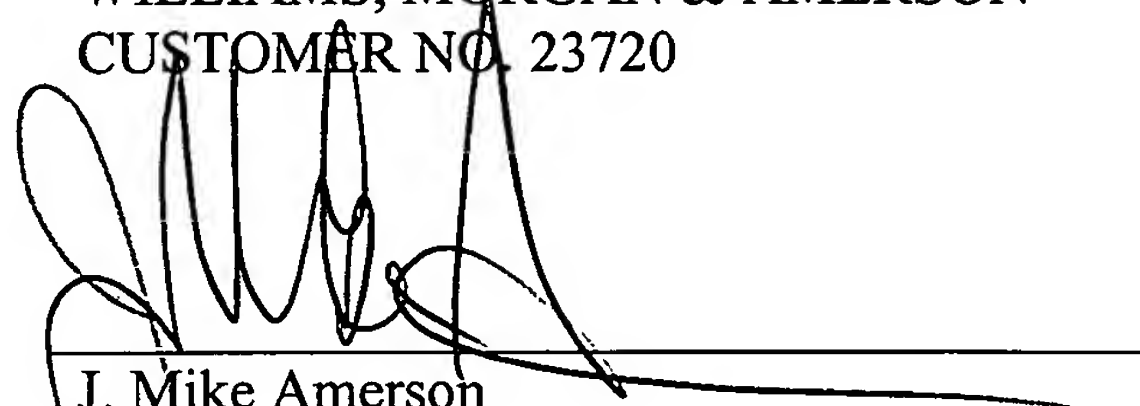
Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to claims 1, 9 and 16 as such amendments will place the application in better position for appeal.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner maintained the previous rejections issued in this application. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections are improper for the reasons set forth in the Response to Office Action dated July 12, 2004, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

In summary, Applicants request entry of the claim amendments set forth above prior to filing an appeal in this matter. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON
CUSTOMER NO. 23720

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mike Amerson', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large, looping letters.

Date: December 17, 2004

J. Mike Amerson
Reg. No. 35,426
10333 Richmond, Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77042
(713) 934-4056
(713) 934-7011 (facsimile)

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS